

**1-13. (cancelled)**

**14. (previously presented)** A method of providing shipping services in an electronic procurement system comprising the steps of:

providing a buyer interface to a user via an electronic procurement system; wherein said electronic procurement system is configured according to an established procurement policy and allows said user to purchase both tangible goods and shipping services from said buyer interface;

offering shipping services to said user by providing, via said buyer interface, a selectable list of shipping carriers; and

allowing said user to select one or more of said shipping carriers from said selectable list.

**15. (cancelled)**

**16. (cancelled)**

**17. (previously presented)** The method of claim 14 further comprising the steps of:

generating a shipping label; and

returning a shipping label to the buyer interface.

**18. (previously presented)** The method of claim 17 wherein the step of generating a shipping label comprises providing the ship to address and the level of service to a shipping carrier tracking application.

**19. (previously presented)** The method of claim 14 wherein the electronic procurement system comprises a buyer procurement server and a shipping carrier procurement services server.

**20. (previously presented)** The method of claim 19 wherein the electronic procurement system further comprises a commerce services server.

21. **(previously presented)** The method of claim 19 wherein the step of offering shipping services to the user via the electronic procurement system comprises the steps of:

sending user data from said buyer procurement server to the shipping carrier procurement services server upon the user selecting one or more of said shipping services carriers from the list of carriers; and

sending a startup uniform resource locator from the shipping carrier procurement services server to the buyer procurement server.

22. **(previously presented)** The method of claim 21 wherein the step of sending user data from the buyer procurement server to the shipping carrier procurement services server comprises the steps of:

sending user data from the buyer procurement server to the commerce services server;  
and

sending user data from the commerce services server to the shipping carrier procurement services server.

23. **(previously presented)** The method of claim 21 wherein the user data comprises:

- a user identifier;
- a buyer company identifier;
- a return uniform resource locator; and
- a session identifier.

24. **(previously presented)** The method of claim 23 further comprising the steps of:

sending transaction data to the buyer procurement server from the shipping carrier procurement services server, the data being sent to a location referred to by the return uniform resource locator.

25. **(previously presented)** The method of claim 23 wherein the user data further comprises:

- a unique buyer key; and
- a supplier company identifier;

26. **(previously presented)** The method of claim 25 wherein the user data is sent in XML tags.

27. **(previously presented)** The method of claim 22 wherein the user data comprises:

- a user identifier;
- a buyer company identifier;
- a return uniform resource locator; and
- a session identifier.

28. **(previously presented)** The method of claim 27 wherein the user data further comprises:

- a supplier company identifier.

29. **(previously presented)** The method of claim 28 wherein the user data further comprises:

- a unique buyer key,
- and a unique supplier key,

the unique buyer key being sent from the procurement server to the commerce services server and the unique supplier key being sent from the commerce services server to the shipping carrier procurement services server.

30. **(previously presented)** The method of claim 29 wherein the user data is sent in XML tags.

31. **(previously presented)** The method of claim 21 wherein the startup uniform resource locator contains embedded values.

32. **(previously presented)** The method of claim 31 wherein the embedded values comprise a user identifier, a buyer company identifier, and a session identifier.

33. **(previously presented)** The method of claim 21 wherein the step of enabling the user to purchase shipping services via the electronic procurement system comprises:

directing a browser application on the buyer interface to the startup uniform resource locator.

34. **(previously presented)** The method of claim 33 wherein the step of enabling the user to purchase shipping services via the electronic procurement system further comprises:

enabling the user to specify package shipping data including a ship to address, a package weight, and a level of service.

35. **(cancelled)**

36. **(cancelled)**

37. **(cancelled)**

38. **(previously presented)** A system for providing shipping services comprising:
- a buyer interface communicatively connected to a network;
  - a buyer procurement server communicatively connected to the network, the buyer procurement server configured according to an established procurement policy, to offer both tangible goods and shipping services to a user accessing said buyer interface; wherein said shipping services are offered from a selectable list of suppliers; and
  - a shipping carrier procurement services server communicatively connected to the network, the shipping carrier procurement services server being configured to respond to a request for shipping services from the user by sending an electronic shipping label to the buyer interface.

39. **(previously presented)** The system of claim 38 further comprising:
- a commerce services server communicatively connected to the network, the commerce services server configured to accept a request for shipping services from the buyer procurement server and forward that request to the shipping carrier procurement services server.

40. **(previously presented)** A system for providing shipping services comprising:

a shipping carrier procurement services server configured to receive a request for shipping services made from a buyer interface of an electronic procurement system and configured to generate and return an electronic shipping label to the buyer interface, wherein said electronic procurement system is configured according to an established procurement policy and further configured to allow a user to purchase tangible goods in addition to shipping services.

41. **(previously presented)** The system of claim 40 further comprising;

a shipping carrier tracking application configured to accept a request for a shipping label from the shipping carrier procurement services server, generate a shipping label, and send the shipping label to the shipping carrier procurement services server.

42. **(previously presented)** The system of claim 40 wherein the shipping carrier procurement services server is configured to send a total amount for shipping services to a buyer procurement application.

43. **(previously presented)** The system of claim 42 further comprising:

a shipping carrier billing application configured to accept a request for a total shipping amount from a shipping carrier procurement services server, calculate a total shipping amount, and send the total shipping amount to the shipping carrier procurement services server.

44. **(previously presented)** The system of claim 40 wherein the shipping carrier procurement services server is configured to send a startup uniform resource locator to the buyer interface upon the server receiving the request for shipping services.

45. **(previously presented)** The system of claim 40 wherein the shipping carrier procurement services server is configured to receive package shipping data from the buyer interface.

46. **(previously presented)** The system of claim 45 wherein the electronic shipping label returned to the buyer interface includes one or more elements of the package shipping data.

47. **(previously presented)** A method of providing shipping services in an electronic procurement system comprising the steps:

logging a user into an electronic procurement application; wherein said electronic procurement application is configured according to an established procurement policy and allows said user to purchase shipping services and tangible goods from a single computerized interface;

providing the user, via said computerized interface, with a selectable list of shipping carriers,

allowing said user to select one or more of said shipping carriers from said selectable list;

allowing said user to specify a ship to address; and

returning to said user a printable shipping label.

48. **(previsouly presented)** The method of claim 47 wherein the shipping services are outbound shipping services.

49. **(currently amended)** The method of claim 47 wherein said shipping label is used for shipping a package from a location of the user to a second location.

50. **(cancelled)**

51. **(previously presented)** The method of claim 47 wherein the electronic procurement system enables an employer of the user to create a list of suppliers from whom the user can make purchases.

52. **(previsouly presented)** The method of claim 47 wherein the shipping services are offered at a price negotiated between an employer of the user and a shipping carrier.

53. **(previously presented)** The method of claim 52 wherein the price is stored in the electronic procurement system.

54. **(previously presented)** The method of claim 47 wherein the electronic procurement system records a purchase of shipping services made by the user.

55. **(previously presented)** The method of claim 54 wherein the electronic procurement system records purchases made by an organization within a company of which the user is a member.

56. **(previously presented)** The method of claim 55 wherein the electronic procurement system is operable to generate reports based on purchases made by the user using the electronic procurement system.

57. **(previously presented)** The method of claim 56 wherein the reports show purchase data at the organization level.

58. **(previously presented)** The method of claim 57 wherein the reports show purchase data at the user level.